

MNC-6134

03 April 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service  
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group  
SUBJECT : Monthly Report -- Nicosia Bureau -- March

## I. GENERAL

A. Work on the new bureau continues. The flawed construction of previous months has been repaired or replaced, and all excavation has been finished. On the main building, all groundbeams have been completed, all of the main columns have been poured, and about a third of the floor slabs have been laid. Exterior blockwork has now begun. Meanwhile, a third of the perimeter wall has been poured.

B. The specific possibility of terrorist attacks on the embassy and its personnel, which surfaced last month, has prompted various new security measures, including the issuance of identification badges to all embassy employees.

## II. OPERATIONS

### A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. In light of Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi's threat that U.S. targets would be attacked if U.S. vessels crossed the "line of death" during late March naval exercises off the coast of Libya, the bureau maintained an open watch on Libyan radio and sent regular media behavior FYI's during our hours of coverage for the duration of the exercise. Following Libyan claims that three U.S. aircraft were brought down over the Gulf of Sidra on 24 March and U.S. reports of a successful attack on SAM-5 missile sites near the town of Surt in Libya, Nicosia and London bureaus coordinated efforts to undertake 24-hour coverage of Libyan media. At his request, the embassy security officer was kept apprised of breaking developments in this crisis, as well. With the 27 March U.S. announcement of the end of the maneuvers, and Tripoli radio's adherence to normally scheduled programming, the bureau reverted to regular coverage of the radio on 29 March.

2. Two additional events this month prompted the bureau to retain primary coverage of Tripoli radio past the hour when we normally relinquish this responsibility to London Bureau. On 3 March, we continued our coverage of a live relay of the Libyan General People's Congress proceedings in Bengasi until the election of the primary secretaries to the General People's Committess was completed, while on 25 March, the bureau continued to monitor the radio until anti-U.S. demonstrations in Bengasi and Tripoli, being broadcast, were over.

3. Given the unsettled situation in Egypt following an attack on Israeli employees at the Cairo International Fair on 19 March, the bureau extended its operating hours until Cairo MENA signed off and the last Cairo radio newscast on coverage was completed.

4. Nicosia's hours of Paris AFP coverage for material on the Far East and South Asia were significantly reduced upon Bangkok Bureau's assumption of coverage of this press agency via landline on 25 March.

5. On 12 March, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon, affiliated with the Lebanese Forces, was heard to broadcast in parallel on two mediumwave transmitters. Although the new frequency in use has a strong signal, the bureau's reception is marred by faulty modulation.

#### B. Communications

1. The bureau made use of its 24-hour TGP-1 commercial circuit between Nicosia and Caversham twice, to cover scheduled communications outages on 8 and 15 March.

#### C. Lateral Services

1. Political officers at the local embassy were kept informed of all reports pertaining to the new UN "draft settlement" of the Cyprus issue, as well as of reaction to it by the principal parties involved.

2. The regional security officer at the embassy was briefed on several local press reports of possible terrorist strikes on the island. On 2 March, the independent O FILELEVTEROS newspaper reported that "groups of Palestinians" had departed the PDRY for Cyprus bearing both arms and explosives. The 6 March edition of the socialist paper TA NEA warned that Black September has planned attacks on Larnaca Airport and "other installations in Cyprus"; the report offered no specific motives. Finally, the 16 March edition of O AGON, an independent paper not on regular coverage, cited an Interpol warning that Cyprus is to be the target of "extremist organizations" and that "specially trained men" have been sent to the island to implement a plan to carry out "acts of violence."

#### D. Technical

1. The bureau's old mechanical Telex machine, a Creed Model 444, was replaced by the Cyprus Telecommunications Authority with an electronic Siemens T1000 unit.

2. The tape reader on the TGP-1 commercial circuit between Nicosia and Caversham was upgraded to an Addmaster model 612-2.

3. Equipment received: 11 TRG .1-30 antenna multicouplers from Bangkok.

### III. ADMINISTRATION

#### A. Personnel

1. The trip to Tunisia planned for March in an effort to recruit Arabic monitors was called off following Tunisian Government intervention in the recruitment process.

2. Regional Engineer [ ] visited Jordan, Gulf and Tel Aviv bureaus between 1 and 13 March. STAT

3. [ ] completed her 3-month training TDY at Nicosia on 27 March. STAT

#### B. Visitors

STAT

1. [ ] of RECD arrived on 4 March to oversee the construction of the new bureau.

2. FBIS Director [ ] made a 24-hour stopover on 20 March, during which he visited the site of our new bureau. STAT

STAT

[ ]  
A/Bureau Chief  
Nicosia Bureau

ATTACHMENT: Production Report

## Nicosia Bureau Production Report for March 1986

## I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	301410
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	91320
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	997

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:	8565.00	22260.00	117.00
(minutes or issues per week)	min.	min.	issues

III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:  
(publishable words per month)

CHINA			
Beijing in			
Persian to Iran	0		
CLANDESTINE (LEVANT)			
(Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in			
Arabic	10150		
*(Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in			
English	280		
(Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in			
Arabic	4440		
CYPRUS			
Nicosia Domestic Service in			
Greek	7140		
Nicosia Domestic Service in			
English	0		
*Nicosia Television Service in			
Greek	510		
*Nicosia Television Service in			
English	200		
Nicosia Cyprus MAIL in			
English			1190
Nicosia ELEVTHEROTIPIA in			
Greek			750
Nicosia I SIMERINI in			
Greek			1540
Nicosia I SIMERINI tis DHEFTERAS in			
Greek			470
Nicosia KHARAVYI in			
Greek			600
Nicosia KHARAVYI tis DHEFTERAS in			
Greek			1130

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
*Nicosia O AGON in Greek			620
Nicosia O FILELEVETHEROS in Greek			1630
Nicosia O FILELEVETHEROS tis DHEFTERAS in Greek			730
*Nicosia TA NEA in Greek			350
EGYPT			
Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic	34900		
*Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic	1320		
Cairo MENA in Arabic		65260	
Cairo MENA in English		8820	
FRANCE			
Paris AFP in English		35020	
GREECE			
Athens Domestic Service in Greek	18410		
Athens ATHENS NEWS in English			290
Athens ELEVETHEROTIPIA in Greek			8750
Athens I KATHIMERINI in Greek			2310
Athens KIRIAKATIKI ELEVETHEROTIPIA in Greek			500
Athens RIZOSPASTIS in Greek			1300
IRAQ			
Baghdad in Persian to Iran	0		
LEBANON			
Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic	38270		

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
*Beirut Domestic Service in English	1230		
Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic	23680		
*Beirut Voice of Lebanon in English	340		
Beirut Ihdin Radio of Free & Unified Lebanon in Arabic	1540		
Beirut AL_NAHAR in Arabic			1330
Beirut AL_SAFIR in Arabic			0
Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English			0
LIBYA			
Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic	13360		
TURKEY			
Ankara YANKI in Turkish			0
*Istanbul BULIVAR in Turkish			130
Istanbul CUMHURIYET in Turkish			1500
Istanbul DUNYA in Turkish			0
Istanbul GUNAYDIN in Turkish			570
*Istanbul GUNES in Turkish			920
Istanbul HURRIYET in Turkish			4130
Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish			920
Istanbul TERCUMAN in Turkish			2380
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS			
Moscow in Greek to Cyprus	330		
Moscow in Persian to Iran	2170		